

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
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Micheal Miller, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services  
38 Pine Street North, Unit 120, Timmins, ON P4N 6K6  
1-800-461-1293 / (705) 268-9033

## **KUNUWANIMANO CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACHIEVES DESIGNATION – MAY 1, 2015**

TIMMINS, ON – We are pleased to announce that on May 1, 2015 Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services (KCFS) received designation as a Children’s Aid Society pursuant to section 15(2) of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

This designation will allow KCFS to offer services that honour and support the inherent authority of member First Nations to provide care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. KCFS is an organization that values children and is respectful and sensitive to their needs. Our mission is to work collaboratively with our First Nations members to ensure the safety and well-being of children is secured by strengthening, supporting and encouraging the healthy development of families. We are committed to providing services in a manner that is holistically and bi-culturally appropriate for our First Nations.

Kunuwanimano means “Keeping our Own” and this has been the driving force for the past 25 years of providing services to our families. The designation as a Children’s Aid Society further enables us to strengthen families and communities.

KCFS received formal approval from the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services, following the last stage of the transitional review in March, 2015.

As of May 1, 2015, KCFS will provide child welfare services to Aboriginals within the Districts of Temiskaming, Sudbury, Cochrane and Algoma.

KCFS have been working closely together with the other CASs on service delivery through the transitional phase to designation. As of May 1, 2015, KCFS is requesting that community partners contact KCFS regarding child welfare referrals or inquiries in relation to the First Nation members within their catchment area. If community members or partners are unsure which agency to call or are unclear on the child or family’s First Nation affiliation, they can call KCFS to determine if the call should be transferred to another agency.

KCFS is committed to supporting our community partners in this transition to a community-based service model. KCFS has finalized child welfare protocols with the police, school boards, hospitals, Violence against Women Agencies and other programs that formalize the reporting and collaborative relationships.

KCFS remain committed to keeping our stakeholders updated on the status of child welfare service file transfers to KCFS.

The children impacted by the transfers are, as always, our first priority as we work towards completing a smooth transition. We encourage all families whom have current involvement with CASs that may potentially transfer to KCFS to reach out to their assigned child welfare workers for more information on how the transition might affect them.

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Micheal Miller, Executive Director, KCFS

**For further information, please contact:**

KCFS Media Contact:  
Peggy Claveau  
Alternative Care Recruitment Worker  
Phone: (705) 268-9033, ext. 1248  
Email: [peggy.claveau@kunuwanimano.com](mailto:peggy.claveau@kunuwanimano.com)

KCFS Executive Director  
Micheal Miller  
Phone: (705) 268-9033, ext. 1235  
Email: [micheal.miller@kunuwanimano.com](mailto:micheal.miller@kunuwanimano.com)